

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
UNION

Mr. Welch And John Birch

ROBERT WELCH, the founder of the John Birch Society, has contributed damage to the cause of anti-communism with his extravagant statements and tactics.

His most quoted statement is contained in a 302-page private document, which has been called "The Politician." In it, he calls former President Eisenhower "a dedicated conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

He also describes former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman as tools of communism. He applies the same label to the late John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, Chief Justice Earl Warren, former Defense Secretary Neil McElroy and others.

Mr. Welch, speaking Tuesday in Los Angeles, said the document was discovered by those at the first meeting of the John Birch Society in 1958. He asked that it be allowed to "fade out of the argument." But he has not refuted what he said.

In the Blue Book for the John Birch Society, Mr. Welch describes democracy as "merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

He said the society "will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels." Its tactics, explained in the Blue Book, would include use of Communist-style fronts and highly organized smear campaigns.

Mr. Welch says the large number of anti-Communist organizations in the United States suffer from lack of "inspired personal leadership... central direction and coordination."

He offers himself as the dynamic personal leader of a one-million-member organization to promote Americanism and defeat communism. These motives are excellent. Some of his methods are not. Mr. Welch's charges only aid those he opposes.